dealerships/LPG distributorships/SKO-LDO dealerships of the Oil Marketing Companies only for those locations for which advertisements have been issued till 31.3.2002. The concerned DSBs shall complete the dealer selection process for all such locations by 30.9.2002. Thereafter, the DSBs shall wind up operations within 14 days of the last interview.

(b) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Oilfield near Nazira

4341. SHRI DRUPAD BORGOHAIN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a new oilfield near Nazira has been explored by ONGC; and

(b) if so, the expected production of crude oil and natural gas from this field?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The first well drilled Nazira structure was dry. The strike well Nazira is found to be oil and gas bearing and has been put on production since January, 2002. The third well drilled on the structure has also been found to be oil bearing. The production potential of the field will be known after assessment.

Gas-grid

4342. SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any plan for having a gas-grid in the country;

(b) if not, the step taken to maintain regional balance in the gas-usage for industrial, commercial and domestic purposes in the country;

(c) whether the States of West Bengal, Jharkhand, Bihar and Orissa are feeling seriously handicapped in industrialization because of absence of gas as feed stock; and

(d) if so, the details of steps taken by Government to bring these States in the Gas Map of India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR): (a) to (d) No, Sir. However, currently, Gas Authority of India Limited (GAIL) is having a pipeline network of around 4600 km. for supply of natural gas to the existing consumers. GAIL has signed Gas Cooperation Agreement (GCA) with the States of West Bengal, Maharashtra, Karnataka and Kerala to achieve the goal of meeting natural gas demand in these States and is in the process of concluding similar GCA with the Jharkhand State. Government have plans to bridge the gap between the demand and supply of natural gas by import of natural gas/liquefied natural gas from neighbouring countries apart from increasing the availability of domestic gas by indigenous exploration/exploitation of gas fields.

Supply of natural gas to States

4343. SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the States where there is no supply of natural gas from any source;

(b) whether the impact of absence of natural gas as feed stock on industrial scenario of these States has been assessed by the States or the Centre; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR): (a) The details are given in Statement (*See* below).

(b) No, Sir.

(c) The allocations to the extent of over 118 million standard cubic metres per day (MMSCMD) already made to various consumers in the country far exceeds the present availability of natural gas of around 65 MMSCMD for supply.

Statement

Details of States with no supply of natural gas from any source

1. Andaman and Nicobar Islands (Union Territory)
2. Arunachal Pradesh
3. Bihar